

# Acts of Worship

## **Autumn 2**

### **Virtue: Prayer**

Statement to Live By: I grow in friendship with God through prayer

### **Definition**

You spend time with God, listening to God, resting in his presence. You tell God that you love him, that you cherish his tenderness, his closeness in every situation, and his love that protects you. You grow in a loving friendship with God. Your prayer comes from the heart; it is a sign of warm love for God.

### **Gathering together**

**Focal point:** Green cloth, candle, Bible, book of prayers

### **Focus:** What is Prayer

Talk to the children about what prayer is and it's the importance. When we pray we are developing our relationship with God by listening to Him and talking to Him

### **Word: Luke 11: 1-4**

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

'Father:

May your holy name be honoured;  
may your Kingdom come.

Give us day by day the food we need.

Forgive us our sins,

for we forgive everyone who does us wrong.

And do not bring us to hard testing.'"

The Gospel of the Lord

Thanks be to God

### **Response to/Reflection on the Word**

Prayer is so important that Jesus taught us all how to pray and gave us the special prayer, 'The Our Father'. In this prayer we are reminded to honour God and to forgive each other.

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### **Going Forth**

As we pray the 'Our Father' together let us ask God to help us this week to forgive each other.

Make a promise to say this prayer each day.

### **Ideas for music:**

The Our Father (sung)

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### **Gathering together**

**Focal point:** Green cloth, candle, Bible, book of prayers

**Focus:** How we pray.

We talk to God in our prayers and then he is very close to us as well.

### **Word: Gospel of St Matthew**

One day, Jesus said,  
'When you say your prayers,  
don't worry so much about the things you want,  
remember that you have a Father in Heaven  
who knows all about the things you need.

When you say your prayers,  
promise him to try and do what he wants  
and he will give you everything you need as well.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

### **Response to/Reflection on the Word**

Jesus reminds us when we pray to God we should not just focus on the things we want.

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Introduce Pope Francis' 'Five Finger Prayer' ([see link to Google Images](#)).  
Explain the importance of praying for different groups of people and thanking God for the many blessings in our lives.

### **Going forth**

Give the children a copy of Pope Francis' 'Five Finger Prayer' and ask them to use it to say a prayer each day for the different groups of people.

### **Ideas for music:**

Father I Place into Your Hands

A New Commandment

Here I Am Lord

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### Gathering together

Focal point: Green cloth, candle, Bible, book of prayers

Focus: When we Pray.

Prayer enables us to develop our friendship with Jesus. We spend time with and talk to our friends each day; we should do this with Jesus by praying to him each day. When we pray we listen to and talk to Jesus and we grow in a loving friendship with Him.

### Word: A Reading from The Book of Kings

A long, long time ago,  
there was a priest called Eli.  
He was very old and was going blind.  
But a young boy called Samuel looked after him.  
One night when Samuel was in bed,  
He heard someone calling his name,  
'Samuel! Samuel!'  
So he got up and went to Eli and said,  
'Here I am, what do you want?'  
But Eli said,  
'I didn't call you!  
Go back to bed'  
So Samuel went and lay down again.

This happened a second and third time.  
When it happened a third time,

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Eli said,  
'Next time you must say,  
"Yes, Lord I am listening."

And it did happen again,  
for God came and stood beside Samuel  
and called his name,  
and Samuel said,  
'Yes Lord, I'm listening.'  
Then God spoke to Samuel,  
and told him what he was going to do.

After that God was always very close to Samuel  
and when the boy grew up,  
he always listened to what God told him.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

### **Response to/Reflection on the Word**

When we open our hearts to God, He speaks to us. When we listen to God, He guides us in our everyday lives.

### **Going forth**

Make time each day to pray to God; to listen to what he speaks to us.

### **Ideas for music:**

My God Loves Me  
Father I Place into Your Hands